

Captain Otty's Log

Newsletter of the Otty Lake Association

President Dick Atkinson

Editor Colin Code

Message from the President

Dick Atkinson

This is the first newsletter of 2003. Captain Otty's Log is delivered to all Otty Lake residents and neighbouring residents with access to Otty Lake, three times a year. This newsletter is supplemented with a hand-delivered information package in early summer.

The Annual General Meeting (AGM) of the Otty Lake Association is held on the second Saturday of July each year. This year the AGM will be held on July 12, 2003. Your suggestions and input are appreciated and you are invited to take an active part of the meeting and the organization. For example, a Historian is needed to establish an archive for old minutes and other information materials. If you, or someone you know might be interested in lending your talents to the association, please contact me at (613) 825 5619, or visit www.ottylake.org for further information.

The OLA is now incorporated. Many lake associations and volunteer groups are becoming incorporated - the advantages of which are that the organization can "represent itself" (a legal term) in official matters, and liability is removed. The OLA Incorporation and current insurance policy provide protection and peace-of-mind to the Board/Committee members and protect all residents.

I would like to extend many thanks to those who donated to the Otty Lake Special Fund. Your generous support has made it possible to appeal undesirable legislation. That appeal has progressed to the Comprehensive Bylaw 02-121. The insert in this newsletter explains the environmental impact of this legislation. Those who have not yet donated to the Otty Lake Special Fund are asked to do so now. Please make a contribution which will help to protect our cherished Otty Lake. You may make your cheque payable to "Otty Lake Special Fund".

A group of fellow residents in Areas 8 & 9 have, on behalf of Otty Lake, disputed the Mining Claim along the North Shore of Otty Lake. News has just been received that this claim has now been abandoned. This claim could have resulted in an operating graphite mine on the shore and to the north of Otty Lake. There are similar claims on Long, Pike and Black Lakes and their residents' groups are addressing these claims with the help of CMAG (Citizens Mining Advisory Group). CMAG is seeking to change portions of the Mining Act that allow a mining company to establish mines on shorelines and move debris into lakes, rivers and wetlands.

Your support for and participation in CMAG is recommended in the form of a membership as well as financial support. An operating mine would significantly and adversely affect the lake environment, as well as indirectly affecting the quality of life and property values for all lake community residents.

Included in this issue of Captain Otty's Log is a 'tear-off' FEE REQUEST. Please check your mailing label. A previous year marked on your mailing label or no-year-shown indicates that your 2003 fee has not yet been received and a return envelope has been enclosed. Your ongoing support and suggestions are appreciated. For your convenience, you can send your Annual Fee, Otty Lake Special Fund, and CMAG membership cheques in the same envelope and they will be forwarded to the correct account.

The mailing records have been transferred to my new computer and everything seems to be correct. However please verify your fee status on your mailing label, as there was a 'glitch' with 2 records the last time I did this.



A December hockey game on Otty Lake near Maple Glen Estates

BRUSH BURNING

David Code

Burning Brush on the ice is harmful for Otty Lake -- or any lake for that matter. Ash and charred or unburned wood will settle on the bottom of the lake and contribute nutrients to the water. These nutrients can result in an explosion of weed growth "fouling our lake". That weed growth can return, year after year, fouling our lake for swimmers and boaters alike. Prolonged introduction of nutrients to the lake from brush

burning and fertilizer run-off from nearby lawns and gardens increase weed development and reduce the oxygen content of the lake. Besides, it is against the law to burn or leave brush on the ice. Details may be had from the Ministry of Natural Resources or the Rideau Valley Conservation Authority.

So, please: Let's all be sure that our friends and neighbours know about this important advice. This message is brought to you - for your benefit and everyone else - by the Otty Lake Association.

PLEASE DO NOT PLACE OR BURN BRUSH ON THE ICE OF OTTY LAKE (WE DON'T WANT TO KILL OUR LAKE)

Reminder, a burning permit is required for burning at any time of year, as previously described in the June 2002 newsletter. Call the Fire Department before you burn: 267-2596.



OTTY LAKE MINING CLAIM UPDATE

Karen Hunt

The Local Issue

On Thursday February 27, 2003 Roy Spooner, the Provincial Mining Recorder notified the disputants that the mining claims on the north shore of Otty Lake (Claims #1249726 and 1234708) held by Graphite Mountain Inc. had been "abandoned" and that he was therefore dismissing these claims. This was welcome news indeed for Otty Lake property owners, as a dispute hearing had been scheduled for March 3, 2003 in Smith Falls. The disputants (Otty Lake residents) spent extensive hours over the past year, researching the Mining Act and other records and had retained the services of a lawyer and a surveyor in their preparations for the hearing. If the mining company's claim had prevailed, the mining company would have been able to request a 21 year mining lease.

As described in previous issues of Captain Otty's Log (April 2002, June 2002, October 2002), the concern to Otty Lake residents was that, had the mining company been allowed to proceed with mining exploration and development on these claimed areas, the potential impact would have been immense. It would have impacted not only the specific properties where the mining exploration and development would have taken place, but also would have impacted negatively the surrounding areas including Otty Lake itself.

Some of the concerns included:

- Noise, dust and dirt from earth moving equipment;
- Increased heavy truck traffic on local roads;
- Impact on the lake, ground water, wells and surrounding wetlands which purify surface water;

- Environmental issues related to open-pit mining (one has only to read of the recent decisions in the OMYA situation to realize how little environmental protection is available); and
- Possible negative impact of the above mining activities on property values throughout the area.

There were twenty-two mining claims filed in TVT in March 2001 by Graphite Mountain. Four of these claims have now been cancelled, including the two at Otty Lake. All of the cancelled claims had been disputed by local landowners. There remain other TVT disputed claims awaiting final hearing dates and other claims that have not been disputed.

THE BIGGER PICTURE

Need For Mining Act Changes

One cannot forget the overall picture in the mining claim situation. The Otty Lake mining claims (#1249726 and # 1234708) were abandoned by the mining company and the claims dismissed by the Provincial Mining Recorder. However these properties and all other "Surface Rights Only" owned land is vulnerable for future mining claim staking. All of the same issues/concerns remain, i.e. no requirement that the prospectors, mining company, or the Ministry of Northern Development and Mines advise landowners that their property has been claimed (yet the landowners have only one year from the date the claim was registered to file a dispute!)

There still need to be changes made in the Ontario Mining Act to protect the rights of landowners. As you have read in previous issues of this newsletter, change in the Mining Act is the focus of the Citizens' Mining Advisory Committee (CMAG). Their Mission Statement is to "Give Cause to the Revision of the Ontario Mining Act with a Primary Aim of Eliminating or Replacing Clauses which are in Conflict with Environmental Legislation and Clauses which Negate the Rights of Surface Property Owners".

Throughout the past year, CMAG has been very active in raising media awareness through radio and TV appearances, newspaper articles as well as interacting politically at both the provincial and local levels.

Locally, Councils in Tay Valley, Drummond/North Elmsley, Perth, Lanark Highlands and Merrickville-Wolford have supported CMAG's efforts to press for changes in the Mining Act, to better support the environment and the rights of private landowners. Maureen Towaj and Lorne RodenBush of CMAG have also met with Mining Minister Jim Wilson's Senior Policy Advisor to present CMAG's recommendations on needed changes to the Mining Act.

The issues ahead remain huge and CMAG welcomes the support of all interested individuals. To obtain more information about this group or to offer your support you can contact Karen Hunt at mkhunt@perth.igs.net

For a CMAG membership (which will keep you updated on the work of CMAG and the mining claims situation), please send \$5.00 (cheques made out to CMAG) to:

CMAG
c/o Karen Hunt
194 Kerr Road
R.R. # 5, Perth, Ontario
K7H 3C7



FURTHER MINING CLAIM CANCELLATIONS

There has continued to be cancellations of local mining claims:

- **Feb. 27, 2003**

The Mining Recorder, Roy Spooner, dismisses both claims at Otty Lake.

In fact, a total of five mining claims were dismissed as of this date, with the remaining three being in Bedford on Green Lake. (SO 1249726, SO 1234712, SO 1234714, SO 1234708, and SO 1234713). In all cases, they were "abandoned" by Graphite Mountain as per Section 70 of the Mining Act.

- **March 04, 2003**

Fourteen additional mining claim cancellations (SO 748709 - SO748722 inclusive). All were held by Graphite Mountain Inc., all were located in Burgess ward of Tay Valley Township. Unlike the two Otty Lake claims, which were staked in March 2001, the current series of cancellations is for old Graphite Mountain Inc. mining claims all staked in 1988.

- **March 14, 2003**

An additional eleven mining claim cancellations (SO 748515 -SO 748519 inclusive, and SO 748723 - SO 748728 inclusive). All of these claims were held by Graphite Mountain Inc., all staked in 1988, all in Tay Valley Township Burgess ward, and geographically on the south shore of Black Lake at the west end, in addition to some inland claims running south between Black Lake and the Big Rideau.

- **March 28, 2003**

Eight additional mining claims cancelled. All were from the March 27th 2001 series of claims. Cancellations include several Pike Lake Claims and the remaining claims north of Otty Lake. (SO 1191552, SO1191555, SO 1191556, SO 1234701, SO 1234702, 1234707, SO 1234709, SO 1249902)

- **April 2, 2003**

Graphite Mountain "abandoned" mining claim 1249904 which covered many waterfront properties on the north shore at the west end of Black Lake. Also abandoned was mining claim

1246442. This was an inland claim lying between Black and Pike Lakes.

Cancellations now total 39 equating to 64%.

TOM FOULKES WINS HONOURS & AWARDS

Thomas (Tom) Foulkes, whom many of us know as a tireless worker on behalf of Otty Lake, has been recognized with the award of the Queen's Jubilee Medal. This follows on the heels of his being named by the Town of Smiths Falls as Citizen of the Year for 2001. Cited by the town were his work on behalf of the Smiths Falls and District Library, the Rideau Environmental Action League, the Food Bank, the curling club, the Lions' Club, his community church, the restoration of the railway station and his work to have the Rideau river designated as a Heritage Waterway. And, of course, his excellent work for the Otty Lake Land Use committee and the Zoning By-law Review committee of Tay Valley Township. Congratulations, Tom! and Well Done!

LOST AND FOUND

LOST - Last Fall

Vanished actually, from the dock of James Bell, just east of Carson's Bay, a green fibreglass canoe. The canoe has a CAA sticker on it. If you have seen it, please call James Bell at (613) 836-6815.

FOUND -- Last Fall

A small dock/catwalk with green boards. Owner may reclaim up to May 24 weekend. Call Dave Code at (613) 722 0339 or 267 5053.

Fishing Seasons and Poaching

Wally Robins

With Spring on our doorstep, it's time to review fishing regulations and what you can do to protect Otty Lake from illegal angling.

There are three main species of sport fish in Otty Lake: northern pike; largemouth bass; and smallmouth bass. This year, the season for pike opens on Saturday May 10th. The season for both largemouth and smallmouth bass opens on Saturday June 28 in 2003. Anglers can also fish for panfish, including black crappie and perch. There is no closed season on these species.

A major problem occurs in May and June before the bass season opens. A small percentage of people attempt to catch bass when they are spawning or guarding nest sites

after the spawn is over. Even if bass are not kept, targeting bass is a punishable offense. Some lawbreakers use the guise of fishing for other species while catching spawning bass.

Irreversible damage is done when bass are caught on the nest. A large percentage of male bass caught while guarding the nest site do not return to the nest. As a result, all eggs and fry are lost to predators. Even when a male returns to the nest after being caught, a very large percentage of eggs or fry are consumed by panfish during the time the male is absent. Catching and keeping a pre-spawn female fish equates to shooting a pregnant deer – the female and the offspring are both killed.

So, what can you do to protect Otty from illegal fishing? First, have the following equipment handy: a pair of binoculars; a camera; a pen and paper; and the Crime Stoppers phone number (1-800-222-8477). If you see someone fishing illegally, record a description of the boat and occupants and report the infraction through Crime Stoppers. You are not required to identify yourself when making this call.

Please remember that it is legal to fish on Otty prior to the bass season, as long as bass are not specifically targeted. Do not automatically assume that someone fishing in May or early June is a poacher. Someone fishing in the middle of a weedy bay may be angling for pike. However, keep an eye out for people fishing close to shore particularly over a rocky or gravel bottom. This is prime spawning habitat for largemouth and smallmouth bass.

While there has not been a serious poaching problem on Otty during the past few years, there are a few criminals who do not respect fishing regulations which benefit the fish population, as well as the health of the lake. Thanks to the vigilance of honest, law-abiding cottagers and residents of Otty Lake, a number of these low-lives have been charged and prosecuted. Keep up the great work. It's your lake - protect it.

Fee Increase

Dick Atkinson

A motion was put forth at the July 2002 Annual General Meeting to increase the annual fee from \$15- to \$20-, due to general increases in costs such that the expenses were higher than receipts in the past year. Rising costs for water testing, cost of insurance and postage / printing costs were the main reason for the increase. It should be noted that OLA fees remain less than most other Lake Associations.

9-1-1 Service

9-1-1 emergency service is now online in Lanark County. Residents should post their signpost number and street name on each telephone in their cottage/home. For example, '123 Sunset Drive, recognizing that there are other Sunset somethings (Lane, Road, View) within the County. Residents should be prepared to give directions to emergency personnel and possibly to have someone meet and direct any emergency vehicle, should the street and building be difficult to locate. The priority is to enable any emergency vehicle to get there as quickly as possible.

There will be a presentation at the 2003 Annual General Meeting on this subject, complete with a map of the area.

Civic Addresses on Rural Routes

Canada Post encourages those with R.R. numbers to use their civic address, i.e. signpost number and street name. The RR #, Perth, Ontario and postal code are to be in the lowest portion of the address on the envelope, with the civic address (sign number and street name) above it.

- Name of addressee
- Civic address (signpost number and street name)
- R.R. #
- City, Province and Postal Code

When mailing to another rural resident, please ensure that the recipient has notified Canada Post for service and is equipped with a rural mailbox.

Visit OLA online at:

<http://www.ottylake.org>

Septic Tank Inspections

The OLA has corresponded with Tay Valley Township (TVT) and recommended periodic waste system inspection, as well as an inspection associated with title transfer when the property is sold. Such a program would ensure that septic systems are operating at peak efficiency for the benefit of the environment and human health. Regular septic maintenance removes sludge and solids from the tank and extends the life of the leaching bed. The association is compiling a list of municipalities that have such programs. If you know of other municipalities that have implemented a program, would you please let Dick Atkinson know the details. Your comments on waste system inspection would be appreciated.

Otty Lake Demographics

Over the years, Otty Lake has become ever more developed. There are now approximately 500 residences with lake access, along the shores and islands of Otty Lake. Of these, about 225 are year-round residences. As such, the Otty Lake Association (OLA) is not so much a cottage association, but a community association.

This shift in demographic has been reflected in the roles which the OLA has become involved, representing not only the interests of cottagers, but all residents along Otty Lake, and with access to Otty Lake

Upcoming Events

Saturday, April 26th, 2003

PERTH PIONEER MAPLE FESTIVAL

At the Perth Museum, 10 am - 3 PM

Outdoor demonstrations of pioneer cooking and crafts in the museum courtyard. Contact the Perth Museum at (613) 267-1947 or visit their web site at

www.superaje.com/~perth.museum

Saturday, April 26th, 2003

27th ANNUAL FESTIVAL OF THE MAPLES

Takes place on the streets of downtown Perth; featuring Max Keeping Day and the Empty Bowls program. Festival highlights includes maple syrup vendors, entertainment on the street, crafts and various booths, dog show in Stewart Park, children's activities in the Basin. Call the Perth Chamber of Commerce for further details. (613) 267-3200 or visit their web site at: www.heritageperth.ca

Year 2003 \$20 Fee Request

Your support of the Association is very much appreciated. A return envelope is enclosed for your convenience. Three Newsletters are issued during the year, either mailed or sent by email. If you would like to change from mail/email, please check below.

OTTY LAKE ASSOCIATION
20 MANCIL DRIVE
NEPEAN, ONTARIO
K2J 2J5



Please include your name, address, phone and email address (if available)

receive newsletter by email:	_____@_____
receive newsletter by regular mail, to the following address:	
Name	
Address	
City	
Province/State	
Code	
Your comments and suggestions are requested:	

May 3rd - September 1, 2003

LANARK COUNTY'S QUILTING HERITAGE

At the Perth Museum. An exhibition of quilts, old and new. Contact the museum at (613) 267-1947 or visit the web site at: www.superaje.com/~perth.museum

May 16th, 2003

TAY/RIDEAU CANAL AND LOCKS OPEN

The season for boating enthusiasts begins. For information call (613) 283-5170 or 1-800-230-0016.

Thursday, June 12th, 2003

The First Citizens' Band Concert of the year

Starts at 7:30 PM in the Bandshell; also June 26, July 10th, July 24th (at Inge Va, August 7 and August 21st

Get Involved!

The Otty Lake Association is a volunteer-based community association. Without the efforts of volunteers, the work to conserve the environment and protect the lake is simply not possible.

Volunteers are needed to assist with:

- Water quality testing;
- Cataloguing and archiving documents;
- Land-Use Committee;
- Area Councillors; and
- Citizens Mining Advisory Group (CMAG).

To help, contact your Area Councillor, or bring your ideas to the Annual General Meeting on July 12, 2003.



OLA SWEATSHIRTS & T-SHIRTS

(SWEATSHIRTS AND T-SHIRTS EMBROIDERED WITH THE OLA LOGO)

- Orders received before April 25/03 will be available for pick-up after May 16/03;
- Orders received by June 15 will be available for pick-up at the AGM; and
- Orders will also be taken at AGM; colours and sizes will be on display.

SWEATSHIRTS - 80% cotton, 20% poly; stitched Otty Lake Association logo as shown here

(Sweatshirts available in adult sizes only) Sizes M, L, XL, XXL

Colours - ash (light gray), maroon, leaf green (med. silvery green), indigo blue (med. denim blue)

Cost per sweatshirt - \$44.00*

T-SHIRTS - 100% cotton; stitched Otty Lake Association logo as shown above (**T-shirts available in adult and youth sizes**)

Adult T-shirt

Sizes S, M, L, XL Colour: white Cost per shirt - \$20.00*; Size XXL Colour: white Cost per shirt - \$23.00*; Sizes S, M, L, XL, XXL Colours: tan, stone blue (light blue), forest green Cost per shirt - \$23.00*

Youth T-shirt

Size S (size 6/8) Colour- white (only) Cost per shirt - \$15.00*; (no medium available); and Size L (size 14/16) Colour- white (only) Cost per shirt - \$17.00*

ORDER FORM

ITEM NUMBER	SIZE	COLOUR	QUANTIT Y	COST PER SHIRT*	SUBTOTAL
				\$	\$
				\$	\$
				\$	\$
				\$	\$

TOTAL AMOUNT = \$ _____

*Taxes are included in prices listed Please make cheque out to the **Otty Lake Association** and send with complete description of your order (# of shirts [tees or sweatshirts], sizes and colours to:

OTTY LAKE ASSOCIATION
20 MANCIL DRIVE
NEPEAN, ONTARIO
K2J 2J5

